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THE EXETER STUDY WEEKEND ...

We had an excellent weekend in and around Exeter, 22nd - 25th May ... our thanks both to Deryck Laming for his local planning and organisation in advance, and to Peter Hay for his ingenuity and initiative in spotting and siezing opportunities to get into additional holes! Undoubtedly the relatively small size of the party this year (one minibus full) made our flexible programme possible. And it was pleasant to have a 'long' weekend for a change, taking in the Bank Holiday Monday ... this year we failed to lose parts of the party during the Sunday afternoon!

Sites visited included the intriguing network of water - supply tunnels under the centre of Exeter; a whole clutch of iron mines at Great Rocks on the edge of Dartmoor; the Morwelham museum near Tavistock, including a trip by train through the tourists' mine (quite well done) and, as an extra for those willing to get wet, a most rewarding exploration of some nearby copper workings complete with shafts, stopes, ore shoots, multi - coloured formations ... ! Another 'extra' for a few was an interested flooded slate mine not far from Buckfastleigh. Then there was the William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust's Centre, at Buckfastleigh, and we concluded our programme on Monday with a visit to the underground hard - chalk (for building) quarries at Beer. This last site was well worth seeing, although unfortunately our party was amalgamated with a standard 'tourist' trip, precluding a really detailed examination. What we were told concerning the extent of the workings, and the dating of the varicus parts both by methods of working and by excavated finds, if true, is of great importance.

NEXT ... NORTH WALES? ...

Provided bookings are made, and deposits paid, in good time we should be able to organise a first - class Study Weekend in North Wales next summer. Several officers and members have made advance visits, and guarantee an interesting weekend. Accommodation, with excellent facilities and meals, at Plas Tan - y - Bwlch has, likewise, been sampled ... and pronounced first class. Further details should accompany this Newsletter ... book early for what promises to be one of our best Study Weekends to date!

THE SOBERES CONFERENCE IN BELGIUM ...

Your Chairman attended the SOBERES 'Congres International de Subterranelogie' at Reves (a very small village to the north of Charleroi) on 11th - 12th July, as did Sylvia Beamon and Jim Bradshaw from the U.K. It was good to see old friends from Belgium, Holland,

and Germany ... and to discover that there are some nice bits in Belgium (apart from the southern end of St. Pietersberg and neighbouring areas!)

Although almost all the papers were in (untranslated) French (and the chairs got harder and harder!) the accommodation and general conference arrangements were excellent value for the modest charges levied. On the Sunday there was a tour, largely subterranean, to see the spectacular fortifications at Namur ... followed by a memorable meal at a country inn and a tour of some ruins (with well) at Poilvache. Nick Catford's slides (illustrating the Chairman's lecture) were much admired, and there were demands for a description of how such photographs could be taken ... perhaps a written account for publication? A most welcome and important development was the presence of a contingent from Italy, where some good work is evidently under way (see publication mentioned in Newsletter 12.)

Apart from such details as catering adequately for vegetarians, both the British and the Dutch will find SOBERES' conference organisation hard to match. SB has plans for a Stone Quarries conference, of international standard, based in the Bath area in 1988 ... and Eef Smitshuysen has thoughts for a further gathering at Maastricht in 1990. Not to mention the French group's invitation to Paris ...

It would be good to see more SB members at these international gatherings. Although there undoubtedly is a language problem, they are of great interest, very enjoyable ... and there is usually a Dutchman nearby to act as translator from French to English!

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL STORY ...

This new book is by Michael R. Bonavia, who (it has been claimed) is almost the only current writer of serious (rather than 'picture book') railway history, in depth (so to speak.) Although the dustjacket says this volume contains 'The full story of the Channel Tunnel ...' it will be a disappointment to SB members anxious to learn more about the several bits of Channel Tunnel already actually driven (not all of them, by the way, anywhere near the Channel!) Dr. Bonavia was, in the 1970s, Director of the Channel Tunnel project, and thus was 'at the heart of the action virtually until its untimely cancellation ...' His book deals with that scheme, and also with the history of the quest for a fixed link 'from the pioneer plans of the last century to the present venture which seems set, at long last, to end Britain's physical isolation from the rest of Europe ...'

Certainly a tunnel will make it easier for SB to liaise with our mainland continental friends!

M.R. Bonavia, The Channel Tunnel story, David & Charles, 1987.
173pp ISBN 0 7153 8964 5 £ 9.95

MID - WALES MINES PRESERVATION ...

At a public meeting held in July 1986 at Aberystwyth a concerned group of local people sought to bring attention to the rapidly disappearing industrial archaeological remains of the lead mining industry in the area as well as to awaken interest in the amenity value of such sites. Of particular concern was the Frongoch lead and zinc remains which are the subject of the latest British Mining monograph No. 30 by David Bick. The site has recently been offered for sale and Scheduled

protection of the buildings is now under consideration by the Welsh Office. A steering committee was set up to examine the channels open to secure the Frongoch site plus the conception of a Mines Preservation Group in the area which could possibly have a Charitable status.

Industrial Archaeology Review 9(2),
p. 218, 1987

DUDLEY CANAL TRUST ...

The Trust has now completed a new tourist attraction in the former limestone quarries beneath Castle Hill, Dudley, West Midlands. Using a computerised audio-visual presentation and models, the story of the limestone formation and the mines is told to visitors brought into the caverns on electric narrow boats. The boats enter through the newly restored Tipton portal of the Dudley Tunnel, although the tunnel is still closed to through navigation pending full restoration.

Industrial Archaeology Review 9(2), p. 220,
1987

BRITISH CIVIL ENGINEERING LITERATURE 1640 - 1840 ...

An important reference work for all seeking details of early civil engineering works before there was an Institution of Civil Engineers to record them in the pages of its Minutes of Proceedings ...

This volume gives full details, including locations for rare works, of books and, especially, one-off reports from 'the first notable engineering publication in England, Vermuyden's Discourse on draining the Fens (1642) ...' Articles in journals or encyclopaedias are not included, unless issued also in the form of offprints. There are 1,914 detailed entries, arranged alphabetically by authors ... and a very useful subject index (pages 287 - 302) with headings including 'Borings and site investigation', Canals, Railways, Roads, Tunnels, and Water Supply. Unimplemented tunnel schemes (e.g. the Forth Tunnel proposals for Queensferry, 1805 onwards) are included. The index lists 3 publications relating to the Forth Tunnel proposals, one for a proposed Tunnel under the Thames from Gravesend to Tilbury (!) c. 1798, one to the Harecastle Tunnel (1838), one to that at Highgate Archway (it fell in!)(1809), two to the Kilsby railway tunnel (1839, 1841), one to the Primrose Hill railway tunnel (1837), 12 to the Thames Tunnel (various dates from 1823 to 1837), and one to the Tyne Tunnel proposal (1797.)

Undoubtedly there will be material here new to almost, if not quite, all SB members ... and doubtless some of them, at any rate, will soon be making tracks for the various libraries where these little-known reports may be consulted!

A.W. Skempton, British Civil Engineering 1640 - 1840: a bibliography of contemporary printed reports, plans and books, Mansell Publishing Ltd., 1987. xvii + 302 pp ISBN 0 7201 1746 1 £ 45

STOCKPORT COUNCIL AIR-RAID TUNNELS TO BE A TOURIST ATTRACTION? ...

The Guardian of 27 July 1987 contained a photograph of these tunnels, evidently rock-cut and still containing bunk beds, with a caption as follows ...

Relic of war: Stockport Council wants to turn a labyrinth of air-raid tunnels under the town into a tourist attraction. The mile long network of tunnels, examined above by Carl Stringer of the council's works department, were hewn out of sandstone in 1938 and could shelter 6,000. They contained beds, a hospital and toilets.

COALFIELD REDUCED TO ONE PIT ...

British Coal yesterday (The Guardian reported, 13 June 1987) reduced the Kent coalfield to just one pit by announcing the closure of the Snowdown mine, and with it the loss of 189 jobs ...

The loss of Snowdown will take the number of pits in the country to 102. ...

... no other conclusion could be reached after the unions refused to agree to the transfer of 90 men to Betteshanger, the last pit in the coalfield, which is only a few miles from Snowdown. ...

"SOUTH LONDON MINE EXPLORATION GROUP"

Descent Magazine's Caving Yearbook 1987/8 lists a fictitious body under this name. The entry claims the SLMEG was founded in 1979, and is affiliated to NAMHO. Amongst numerous other details, it is stated that the Club's main interest is in mining in southern England and South Wales and that (members) have 'written extensive articles on the subject. ...' Surveys for sale listed are 'Great Sheffield Coprolite Mine, Cambs., Herstham Mines (sic), Godstone Mines, and Tottenhoe Mines (Bucks)(sic!) Publications listed include Great Shelford Coprolite Mine, Herstham Mines in British Mining No. 19 ... Godstone Mines in British Mining No. 20 by John Keating ... and Tottenhoe Chalk Mine ...

John Keating is named as Secretary.

This is all very puzzling! John Keating's name appeared appended to an article printed in British Mining 19 ... but the article in question was in fact a word-for-word reprint of a document published a few years earlier by Croydon Caving Club! Only the acknowledgements and the Croydon Caving Club credits on the surveys had been left out! The Northern Mine Research Society, which published British Mining, is now very much more careful about having submitted papers refereed! There is in fact no article on Godstone Quarries in British Mining 20, although NMRS tell us that they did experience problems with plagiarised material in that issue also! NAMHO has never had as a member any such organisation as the South London Mine Exploration Group.

Enquiries have elicited the information from Mr. Keating that there is indeed no such Exploration Group, and that he has been the object of an elaborate hoax, and put to considerable trouble responding to requests for information, publications, and so forth. Descent Magazine has now published a note to the effect that the entry should be ignored.

Evidently something fishy has been going on...!

HOMES PERIL IN CAVE- IN ...

Families were evacuated after an electricity sub-station crashed into a 50 ft hole as a disused quarry tunnel collapsed in Gravesend, Kent, early yesterday. Power AND water were cut off from hundreds of homes when the heavy equipment also smashed through a water main. After families were evacuated a police spokesman said: "It's lucky the hole didn't open up under a house. It would have swallowed it."

Daily Mirror, 1 Sept 1986

BUNKER APPROVED ...

The Department of the Environment yesterday accepted a developer's appeal to approve plans for a 1,000-place private nuclear bunker to be built on the outskirts of Peterborough. The Guardian, 2 Sept. 1986

EXPLORING THE REGENT'S CANAL...

This history - cum - guidebook includes some details for the two tunnels on the canal ... the Maida Hill and the Islington tunnels. The canal was constructed c. 1812.

Michael Essex-Lopresti, Exploring the Regent's Canal, K.A.F. Brewin Books viii + 77pp 1987 ISBN 0 947731 24 5 £ 5.40

LUDWORTH MOOR COLLIERY ...

This exceptionally interesting little booklet describes what was 'the last working mine to the south east of Manchester, one mile east of the A 626 Marple to Glossop road, approximately half way between the two towns.' ... 'One of the smallest mines in England ... a living museum ... Details are given of the way the workings developed, and the way water and geological difficulties were dealt with, period by period. The text is supplemented by helpful illustrations and plans. Ludworth Moor Colliery finally closed on Saturday 18th July 1981.

'Plans are available for all the mines shown on page 6 from R. Thackray, 137 Compstall Road, Marple Bridge, Cheshire' (although your Chairman has written to enquire, but had no reply several months later!)

Geoffrey du Feu and Roderick Thackray, Ludworth Moor colliery. The mine and the men, Marple : R. Thackray, 1981 46pp

CLEARWELL CAVES ... ANCIENT IRON MINES ...

Your Chairman and Ken Geddes called in at the Clearwell Caves 'show mines' in the Forest of Dean on the way home from the Exeter Study Weekend to sample the 'special deep level trip' for those with some experience, or willingness to learn, simple dry caving techniques ... Ken had, with SB Study Weekend enterprise, managed to negotiate a led trip just for two or three ... normally there is a charge of £ 3 per person, with a minimum charge of £ 30 and a maximum party size of 15. Helmets are provided ... it is a 1½ - 2 hour trip, and excellent value as, without a guide, it is unlikely you would find your way to some of the more interesting corners or deeper levels (FWS had visited the system twice before, independently, but could not find his way down to the water table ... or out again ... unaided!)

Added to a variety of other sites already prospected in the Forest of Dean / Cottswolds area by Paul and Bruce Osborne, there is easily enough for a good SB Study Weekend in this area.

For further details of the Clearwell Iron Mines and guided tours, contact R. Wright Esq., The Bungalow, Heywood Road, CINDERTON, Glos GL14 2QT ((0594) 23700.)

There is a guide book published, illustrated in colour ...

Clearwell Caves. Ancient Iron Mines, nd, 12pp., from Clearwell Caves, Clearwell, nr. COLEFORD, Royal Forest of Dean, Glos GL16 8JR ((0594) 23700 and 32535)

OLD INDUSTRIAL SITES IN WYEDEAN... A GAZETTEER ...

A comprehensive gazetteer of industrial sites to visit in the lower Wye valley and the Forest of Dean, includes (of subterranean interest) iron and coal mining relics, and tramroads and railways (and their tunnels.)

A.G.R. Cross, Old industrial sites in Wyedean. A gazetteer, 1982, 134pp £ 6 (Neither ISBN nor publisher stated!)

FLINT ... the SECOND VOLUME PUBLISHED AT LAST!

The Scientific Study of Flint and Chert, being the first part of the published Proceedings of the 4th International Flint Symposium, held at Brighton in 1983, was published in 1986. The companion volume, with more in it for subterranean archaeologists, was originally promised for 1985, but has only just been published - The human uses of flint and chert, edited by G. de G. Sieveking and M.H. Newcomer, Cambridge University Press, 1987 ISBN 0 521 26253 4 xiii + 263 pp £ 60!

It was deliberate policy to restrict the conference themes to four 'scientific' and four 'archaeological' topic areas, the present volume dealing with the latter, viz. (1) spatial analysis and the dispersal and human transport of flint; (2) flint mine technology and the exploitation of minor raw material sources; (3) flint tool replication and the re-construction of tool manufacturing sequences; (4) flint tool microwear and surface texture analysis.

Papers of particular underground interest are ...

- Günter Smolla, Prehistoric flint mining: the history of research - a review, in pages 127 - 129
- G. Weisgerber, The technological relationship between flint mining and early copper mining, pp. 131 - 135
- Romuald Schild, The exploitation of chocolate flint in central Poland, pp. 137 - 149 (including details of mines)
- Elisabeth Rudebeck, Flintmining in Sweden during the Neolithic period: new evidence from the Kvarnby - S. Sallerup area, pp. 151 - 157
- A.J. Mercer, A flint quarry in the Hambledon Hill Neolithic enclosure complex, pp. 459 - 463
- G. Weisgerber, The ancient chert mines at Wadi el - Sheikh (Egypt), pp. 165 - 171

Remarkable results have been achieved by the application of scientific methods to the study of flint implements; and remarkable work has been done in archaeological excavation and study of initially unpromising flint mine sites. Might it be that the impressive international collaboration and advances in knowledge, so stimulated by the International Flint Symposia which had their birthplace in Maastricht, will one day be emulated by building-stone and stone-quarry research with, again, stimulation from initiatives taken in Maastricht! Both flint and building-stone share the characteristic that they are potentially identifiable as to their provenance, unlike many other mining products. Building stones, indeed, generally offer rather more, and more obvious, clues than flint. Chronological and spatial distribution patterns are discernible, and offer insights into both trading and the technological problems of early heavy freight movement, and the existence of economic resources to fund a necessarily expensive enterprise. And the detailed archaeological interpretation of quarry features (an unusual branch of practical archaeology as, often, one is dealing with the removal of material rather than the deposition and stratigraphy so characteristic of 'ordinary' archaeology) is still in its infancy, but surely offers much scope for good work.

Perhaps the forthcoming Loughborough conference on Quarrying and stone supply from Roman Britain to the end of the Middle Ages (details in Newsletter 12, page 1) will mark a great leap forward, as (at last) the archaeological and academic worlds are beginning to recognise the importance of this branch of underground and associated above-ground archaeology.

LIMESTONE MINES IN ARCHER'S WOOD NEAR MOUNTFIELD, SUSSEX ...

The Kent Underground Research Group is currently investigating the Purbeck limestone mines in Archer's Wood near Mountfield (in Sussex!) Adrian Pearce, currently NAMHO Secretzry, has not taken long to find himself an underground project in the south east! And this is one where his Derbyshire connections could yield fruit, as the following tantalising extract shews ...

Archer Wood.- This is a small wood which lies upon the left-hand side of the road from Battle to John's Cross, at a distance of a little more than a mile from the former place ...

The works have been abandoned for nearly 40 years. They appear to have been conducted in a very effective manner, and were super-intended at the outset by skilled miners from Derbyshire ...

I have, however, been furnished with a great many interesting particulars by an intelligent man, who was foreman of the works during the latter part of their existence ...

From 'notes collected by Mr. Charles Gould, from miners, quarrymen, and others, who had been employed in the workings', in ...

William Topley, The Geology of the Weald, Memoir Geological Survey, 1875, p. 33.

... a surface survey ... discovered the remains of a leat and water wheel pit at a collapsed level into the mine ...

Anyone interested in helping, either with documentary research (East Sussex Record Office, etc) or with field work is invited to contact Adrian at 162 Kingston Crescent, Lordswood, CHATHAM, Kent ME5 8YZ.

AUSTRALIA'S GEM OF A FIND ...

Coober Pedy, Australia: Opal fever has struck the isolated mining town of Coober Pedy afresh, bringing new life to the subterranean desert village.

Miners have discovered a vast field they say could yield millions of dollars worth of the multi-coloured gems ...

"Coober Pedy" is an aboriginal phrase for "White Man's Burrow" - named after the homes burrowed into the desert floor by the first miners who arrived after the First World War ...

(Coober Pedy is about 600 miles north of Adelaide)

The Guardian, 5 August 1987

STAFFORD SPELEO ...

The Stafford Speleo club has issued the second volume (May 1987) of its journal. This contains (apart from accounts of natural caves) an article by Terry Middleton on Kent Hill Gravel Mine and Quarry, Audley - Stafford Speleo Journal 2, 15 - 16 incl. plan, 1987. Gravel workings carved out of the conglomeratic Bunter Pebble Beds at NGR GR 789509.

'The workings consist of an Upper, Middle and Lower Series covering an area of 3250 square metres and there are a total of 22 entrances which are still accessible ... A full description of the mine appeared in the Bulletin of the Peak District Mines Historical Society 9(6) ...'

ROOF FALLS MAASTRICHT ...

There has been a roof fall in the Zonneberg quarry galleries in St. Pietersberg, SW of Maastricht. A party of men was driving a new connection through to the main northern system of quarry galleries, 150 metres in from the Zonneberg entrance. After 16 metres of the total of 26 metres had been penetrated, a slab of stone fell from the quarry ceiling, killed Jaap Bok (26) and seriously injured Huub Rouwet (37) who is the owner of the Company working the still-active underground quarry at nearby Sibbe. There was no advance warning of the fall, according to survivor eye witnesses. These included VVV 'cave guides' who were making a film of the creation of the new connection. Local papers reported that the last known fatal accident in these quarries was (according to graffiti in the quarries) in 1771. Tourist trips in Zonneberg have been cancelled pending the outcome of an inspection of the Netherlands state mines inspection service (which continues to exist despite the closure of the country's last coal mines some 20 years or so ago.) 'Illegal' tools such as pneumatic hammers were not being used ... only the handsaws, chisels, and electric chainsaws as used historically or in the still-operating quarry at Sibbe.

ROOF FALLS ... GODSTONE ...

Your Chairman came close to witnessing a roof fall in the Godstone Hill Quarries earlier this year ... On Sunday 3 May he led a party from Stafford Speleo through the eastern of the two long entrance galleries into the main network, with a 'photo stop' just before the connection with the inner network. On Saturday 9 May it was found that that end of that gallery had fallen in quite spectacularly ... blocking access from several directions to that way in or out. Whether it will prove possible to find a safe route over the fall has yet to be seen.

WELL DEATHS ...

Four members of a family died yesterday at the bottom of a well they were digging in a part of Istanbul not served by mains water. The Anatolian agency said Ismail Hacıoglu, aged 40, first failed to re-appear from the 54-foot pit. His brother, nephew and brother-in-law went in one-by-one to investigate. All perished.- Reuter.

The Guardian, 3 August 1987

FOR SALE - ONE NUCLEAR BUNKER, NO MOD CONS ...

Edinburgh's nuclear bunker is to be put up for sale. The former command centre, six miles from the City centre, has been handed over to Lothian Regional Council by the Scottish Office, which said last night that its 21-year lease had run out and it had no further use for the bunker.

The Council last night decided that it should be sold to any purchaser who might need 38 rooms in a concrete-encased underground centre, complete with intruder-alarms, emergency generators, and out-of-date telecommunications facilities.

A member of the general purposes committee said: "If there was a four-minute warning, how could we get our officials out there in time? We need an emergency centre in the middle of the city ... This one was built in the 1950s as an emergency planning centre ...

The Guardian, 10 June 1987

WELLS and WELL RECORDS ... EXAMPLES FROM SURREY, KENT, and SUSSEX
continued from Newsletter 12, 6 - 7 (1987)

From the 1840s and 1850s there was steady growth of urban populations and, reflecting and encouraging this growth, the systematic development of town drainage and water supply systems. Prospecting and digging for water became progressively more organised. Joseph Prestwich was amongst the pioneers, his A geological inquiry respecting the water-bearing strata of the country around London ... being published in 1851 (there was a 're-issue, with additions by the Author' in 1895.) This embodies a wide-ranging discussion of the water-supply prospects of geological formations throughout the London Basin and, additionally, the Upper and Lower Greensands. Croydon was one of the first 15 towns to adopt the Public Health Act, 1848, in 1849, and established the Croydon Local Board of Health. Amongst the earliest works of the new Board were the digging of deep wells, the creation of a reservoir, and the establishment of a piped water supply and an integrated drainage system. Not surprisingly, perhaps, a number of valuable early studies and listings of well records tend to be centred on the town. Noteworthy are the contributions of one Joseph Lucas, 'of the Geological Survey of England' and sometime resident of Tooting. His book Horizontal Wells. A new application of geological principles to effect the solution of the problem of supplying London with pure water appeared in 1874, and sought to extend the by then established practice of sending out more or less horizontal adits from various depths especially in Chalk wells. These adits were to intersect more water-bearing fissures, so as to increase the pumped yield. Lucas proposed the creation of a number of such adits, each 10 or more miles long, driven along the strike at suitable stratigraphical horizons within the Chalk of the London Basin. These to abstract water, much of which would have flowed out under gravity (rather than having to be pumped from depth.) Although Lucas's horizontal wells were not made (although underground galleries for water supply were made and are still in use at Eastbourne and Folkestone), his book contains, possibly, the first collection of systematically made well records, with locations, heights above sea level, depths to water, and so forth. Further such records appeared in a confusing variety of journals in succeeding years - Hydrogeology: one of the developments of modern practical geology in Trans. Institute of Surveyors 9, 152 - 84 (1877) contains data for Effingham, Farnham, Dorking, Frockham, Betchworth, Merstham, Godstone, &c); Watershed lines. Subterranean water-ridges in J1. Society of Arts, 8 August 1879, 829 - 31 (1879) deals with catchment areas and watersheds in the North Downs; The hydrogeology of the Lower Greensands of Surrey and Hampshire appeared in Proc. Institution of Civil Engineers 61, 200 - 27 (1880); On quantitative elements in hydrogeology in Trans. Sanitary Institute of Great Britain 1, 195 - 202 (1880); other papers appeared dealing with underground water in the Dover area - a topic of great importance in connection with the early development (or failure to develop) the Kent coal field. Lucas first established his claim to the title 'Father of English Hydrogeology' with his important paper The Chalk Water System, in Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers 77(1), pp. 70 et seq. (1876.) His Obituary in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society 83(2), p. lx (1927) records that he 'joined the Geological Survey in January 1867, and for nine years was engaged on mapping in Yorkshire. ... He deserves commemoration as the first to emphasize the need for a systematic survey of all sources of underground water-supply and the study of that branch of science for which he coined the name 'hydrogeology.' He was an interesting man, and one suspects further papers, with further valuable local records; may

well yet turn up. Amongst his last known published works is an English translation (published 1892) of Kalm's account of his visit to England on his way to America in 1748 (En resa til Norra America ... af Pehr Kalm ... translated by Joseph Lucas, of Tooting Graveney ... Macmillan xvi + 480pp, illus., maps (Originally published in Swedish in two volumes in 1753 - 61.) This contains, amongst other things, one of the most important 18th century descriptions of an English underground quarry, that at Totternhoe in Bedfordshire. Kalm might as easily have visited Merstham! Perhaps some other continental traveller actually did so, and left a diary awaiting discovery and translation! If any members can supply further details of Lucas, and of his publications, and especially of any manuscript notebooks, your Editor would be glad to hear from you!

TO BE CONTINUED

A SAND MINE AT GREENWICH ...

Bob Le Gear has contributed a paper A sand mine at Greenwich published in London Archaeologist 5(11), 283 - 85 (1987). With discoveries like this turning up so close to the centre of London, who can say what else remains to be found?

DYNO - ROD SEEKS ANSWER TO BURIAL GROUND WELL MYSTERY ...

Following the appearance of an article in The Times dated May 22nd, on the excavation of a mysterious Mediaeval Burial Ground on the site of the Royal Mint near the Tower of London, Dyno-Rod has disclosed that it has been working at the same location, revealing an interesting mystery of its own.

Dyno-Rod ... was called upon to clear silt from four, three feet tall brickwork tunnels leading from a 90 feet deep well, so that they could be filled with concrete to prevent subsidence. There is no hard evidence to suggest exactly what the well and tunnels, one of which runs down to the Thames, were used for. "We have been told that the network could form part of the system used to supply hydraulic power to the old Mint ...

Dyno-Rod believes that to be unlikely as the classical 'egg-shaped' construction of the tunnels suggests a drainage function ...

The company would welcome suggestions as to the possible function of the tunnels.

Archaeology Today 8(7), p. 31 (87)

CAVE FOR AUCTION ...

A wealthy Arab will have to wait until September to find out if his bid to buy a famous cave near Kidderminster is successful. ... ordered his agent to buy the cave at Vales Rock, Kingsford Country Park, "at any cost." ... "We have had a lot of inquiries from people who want to turn the cave complex into holiday homes."

The rock is classed as a listed property and a scheme to develop the cave would need the approval of the Department of Environment.

(?) Express and Star (?) 1983

EARTHQUAKES AND THE UNDERGROUND ...

Two recent British Geological Survey Global Seismology Reports (numbers 310 and 314 (1987) deal with Microseismic investigations in a flooded limestone mine at Law End: an experimental borehole network and seismic propagation experiments in Castlefields Mine (Dudley.)

LES CARRIERES ET LES CARRIERES DE LA GAULE ROMAINE

Further evidence of well-organised and decently published French research into quarrying comes with Robert Bedon's new book. Whereas the majority of the quarries listed as Roman were openworks ('ciel ouvert') the following are reported as 'galeries' ...

Arras	Kruft
Asnieres - les - Dijon	Poitiers
Belbeze	Saint - Pierre - de - Maille
Bois de Lens	Saint - Aemy - de - Provence
Franclens	Savonnieres - en - Perthois

Amongst the stones quarried were limestone, volcanic tuff, sandstone, etc.

The book is organised in three parts, dealing with 'Les carrieres dans l'histoire de la Gaule romaine', 'Les travaux dans les carrieres gallo-romaines', and 'Les carriers de la Gaule romaine.' The second part includes chapters as follows ...

Les carrieres: sites d'extraction et organisation des travaux
 L'extraction
 Le traitement des blocs dans la carriere
 Les outils en usage dans les carrieres gallo-romaines
 Le chargement et le transport des blocs

There are useful introductory notes on sources (including ancient literature, carved stones, archaeological and architectural evidence, etc), some illustrations and maps, and a lengthy bibliography.

Robert Bedon, Les carrieres et les carriers de la Gaule Romaine, Paris: Picard (ISBN 2 7084 0107 6) 248pp, 1984. £ 23.10

LITHIQUES

And even more stone and quarries research! We have recently seen the fourth issue (1987) of a new journal Lithiques devoted to all aspects of stone in buildings and art. This issue is devoted to Pierres de Paris and includes papers of direct interest to SB members as follows ...

Annie Blanc & Claude Lorenz : Identification d'une pierre (pp. 13 - 30)
 Marc Vire : L'envers de la ville: extraire (31 - 48)
 Louis Simonin : Enquete sur des citoyens du sous-sol parisien (49 - 54)
 Georges Mantoy : Le prix des pierres de Paris au Grand Siecle (55 - 60)
 Marc Vire : L'envers de la ville: consolider (61 - 70)
 Alain Clement : Le reservoir de Montsouris (71 - 76)
 Felix Nadar : Cataphiles du XIX^e siecle (77 - 80)
 Marc Vire : L'envers de la ville: les catacombes (81 - 83)
 Robert Chardon : Graffiti et inscriptions sur les fronts de taille (89 - 102)
 Damien Cru : Pierreux de Paris (103 - 109)
 Pierre Gaudin & Claire Reverchon (edrs) Lithiques 4: 157pp

IN THE SHADOW OF EXTINCTION ...

Creswell Crags caves contain some of the most important archaeological remains of early man in western Europe. 'This copiously illustrated book' describes the results and new ideas which have been obtained from recent studies of the lake, fissures and caves at Creswell Crags. The main theme is the threat of extinction to plants and animals at the site due to the impact of severe arctic and sub-arctic climates which have recurred over the last 100,000 years of the Ice Age. The oldest remains described date to a mild period 120,000 years ago, and includes bones of a cave bear with an arthritic foot. From this period only the hardiest species have survived at Creswell. Other species were forced to refuge in Mediterranean and African lands ...

D.D. Gilbertson, R.D.S. Jenkinson, et al., In the shadow of extinction: a Quaternary archaeology and palaeoecology of the lake, fissures and smaller caves at Creswell Crags SSSI.

John R. Collis / Dept. Prehistory and Archaeology University of Sheffield / Notts and Derbys County Councils

viii + 129pp ISBN 0 906090 21 0 £ 15.95

TUNNEL GAS TRAPS TEN

Eight building workers and two ambulancemen were taken to hospital yesterday after they were overcome by gas in a tunnel at a Devon quarry. The ambulancemen succumbed to the gas - thought to be carbon monoxide - as they tried to reach the workers deep inside the tunnel. A policeman had to drive the ambulancemen and some of the workers to Okehampton Hospital for treatment.

A spokesman later described the condition of all 10 as "stable" and said they would be kept in overnight for observation.

The incident happened in a tunnel being built by private contractors to relieve drainage difficulties at Meldon Quarry, near Okehampton, which is owned by British Rail.

Firemen wearing breathing apparatus carried out the rescue operation at the base of a 10-metre deep shaft. It was thought a ventilator may have become blocked after an earlier controlled explosion and that the victims were overcome quickly by the gas.

The Guardian, 19 August 1987

STOP PRESS ... POSSIBLE VISIT TO TERLINGHAM WATER TUNNEL AT FOLKESTONE?

Bob Le Gear and your Chairman had a meeting with a consulting civil engineer recently concerning the Terlingham Water Tunnel, a sort of 'horizontal well' at Folkestone Water Co.'s works. As part of a programme of studying jointing and other rock conditions in the chalk in and around Dover and Folkestone, in connection with the Channel Tunnel works, it is intended to make the first visit into the Terlingham tunnel since, possibly, 1967. Waste-deep wading is expected.

BEAUMON TUNNEL AT SHAKESPEARE CLIFF TO BE PUMPED OUT AGAIN SOON ...

When the short length of Channel Tunnel service tunnel was constructed at Shakespeare Cliff c. 1974 it intersected the second (flooded) length of Beaumont's 1880s Channel Tunnel, which had to be pumped out and sealed off. The process will be repeated again shortly, as the two running tunnels will, likewise, intersect the older working.